Def 12-5 Jordan

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EXCISE

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LONDON

Department (NE) September 16 gave British Embassy (Everett) estimate Jordan's receipts from Unified Arab Command, its expenditures to date and Command's current financial prospects as generally outlined Deptel 1224 to London. Also reviewed Jordan's experience in its efforts obtain supersonics to date from French. Pointing to somewhat more substantial state UAC funding situation than either US or UK had believed likely six months ago, Department officer suggested Britain might be prepared consider sale to Jordan Mark One LIGHTNING. We also seeking further information re availability and price MIRAGE III C.

[redacted]

Department officer stated US desires avoid confrontation with Jordan on question supersonics. Improved finances UAC indicate possible opportunity exists for UK to sell Mark One and thereby avert showdown situation between US and Jordan.

Drafted by: NEA:NE:LFDinsmore:es:9/17/65

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Embassy might indicate to appropriate office Foreign Ministry Department hoping have answer before September 23 in order be in position instruct Ambassador Barnes on general lines to take with GOJ when he returns Amman from consultation Washington.

GP-3.

END

RUSK